

#5926

Alex Stapleton

From: John Anderson
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 9:40 AM
To: John Anderson
Subject: Georgia statement on ICJ
Attachments: hague statement.pdf

Greetings all. As you no doubt know, Russia and Georgia are arguing a case about ethnic cleansing in South Ossetia and Abkhazia before the ICJ in The Hague. Attached and below is a brief statement by Tina Burjaliani, Georgia's First Deputy Minister of Justice, in response to Russia's presentation today. Best Regards, John

Statement by Tina Burjaliani, First Deputy Minister of Justice – 13/09/10

Speaking at the International Court of Justice in The Hague following this morning's opening statements by the Russian Federation regarding the case of Georgia verses Russia and the application of the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination:

*"Georgia welcomes the appointment of the new judges at the ICJ today.
We have great confidence in the Court and welcome its enquiries.
Tomorrow the Government of Georgia will reply, but we welcome the fact that the Court has decided to release our documents already today on its website."*

For further information, please refer to the following websites:

- www.icj-cij.org
- www.mfa.gov.ge
- www.justice.gov.ge

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The Podesta Group provides representation for the country of Georgia. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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Alex Stapleton

From: John Anderson
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 11:28 AM
To: John Anderson
Subject: More from Georgia on ICJ

Greetings all, and sorry for the second note of the day. Seems that ICJ did not post the Georgia docs, so this, below, should help for those writing for tomorrow. Cheers, John

Further quotes and documents for immediate release:

In its written pleadings to the ICJ, Georgia states that: "Russia's arguments generally mirror those it made at the provisional measures in September 2009, which did not find favour with the Court. Indeed, a number of arguments now maintained by Russia were rejected by all members of the Court. With the passage of time Georgia is now in a position to respond even more strongly to Russia's objections, which are without merit. Russia's arguments are not supported by this Court's jurisprudence or by other human rights bodies established under instruments of universal application."

It goes on: "There is no justification for Russia's false claim that it was considered by Georgia to be an impartial facilitator. Georgia repeatedly and specifically denounced Russia's claimed status as a facilitator in the month's preceding the filing of the 'Application'."

"...Russia's objection is groundless. It is defeated by the voluminous evidence show in that Georgia repeatedly, during a period of more than 15 years leading up to the filing of its application, raised disputes with Russia over multiple forms of ethnic discrimination carried out by the Respondent State against persons of Georgian ethnicity ... To be sure, Russia has always denied its responsibility for these acts of ethnic discrimination. But that only goes to *confirm* the existence of a dispute between the parties as to whether Russia has engaged in discriminatory conduct under the Convention. Georgia says "Yes". Russia says "No." A dispute exists."

Tina Burjaliani, First Deputy Minister of Georgia, added with regards to tomorrow's hearing of Georgia's case:

"Georgia has filed a very full response in writing to the objections of the Russian Federation and Georgia is confident that it has demonstrated very clearly that there is a long-standing dispute between Georgia and Russia on ethnic discrimination and cleansing, and that this court should have jurisdiction to resolve that dispute.

"The heart of the case is about the responsibility of the Russian Federation for its role in acts of discrimination against ethnic Georgians in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

"We have every confidence that the Court will fully deal with these rule of law issues."

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From: John Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2010 10:51 AM
To: John Anderson
Subject: georgia statement on icj

Greetings all. Following on yesterday's emails, below is a statement from Georgia on their appearance today before the ICJ. Best Regards, John

Statement from the Ministry of Justice regarding the ICJ hearing Georgia v. Russia

September 14, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today Georgia presented its important case to the United Nation's International Court of Justice regarding the Russian Federation's responsibility for ethnic cleansing of Georgian civilians.

"We have every confidence in the Court and its procedures, and believe Georgia will get a full and fair hearing.

"Russia has pursued a policy of ethnic discrimination over nearly two decades beginning in 1991. Since then, Georgians have been persecuted and a majority of them forcibly expelled from the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Russia and the forces under its control and authority has encouraged, contributed, and failed to prevent ethnic cleansing in these regions.

"In bringing this case to the ICJ, Georgia has no other purpose but to prevent discrimination and to allow the right of return.

"Russia has been seeking to block this important case on technical and jurisdictional grounds in order to avoid a full and proper assessment of its responsibility for ethnic cleansing.

"The Court – and public – will hear about these terrible crimes, and we have full confidence that this respected institution will give Georgia a full and fair hearing.

"This case is *not* about Russian aggression in August 2008; it is about the responsibility of Russia for the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Georgians over the past two decades. The issue merely crystallized during 2008.

"It remains a fact that more than 400,000 Georgians have been displaced over nearly two decades. Responsibility for that lies squarely at the door of the Russian Federation."

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